being collected from the States/Union Territories and will be laid on the Table of the House as soon as information is made available.

Noise pollution during night hours

3419. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Supreme Court had some time back issued orders to Government to regulate the noise pollution in the country, particularly during night hours;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the follow-up action taken by Government to give effect to the directives of the Supreme Court?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) The Hon'ble Supreme Court had issued orders for regulating noise pollution during night hours in the country and particluarly, during festive period. As per the notification of the Ministry of Environment and Forests dated 11.10.2002, the State Governments are directed to reduce noise pollution, permit use of loud-speaker and public address systems during night hours (between 10 pm to 12.00 mid night) on or during any cultural or religious festive occasion of a limited duration not exceeding 15 days in all during a calendar year.

(c) In pursuance of the orders of the Supreme Court, all the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations have been requested to ensure compliance to the provisions laid down in the above notification of noise pollution.

Implementation of the report of Tiger Task Force

3420. DR. K. KASTURIRANGAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether action has been initiated to implement the recommendations of the report of Sunita Narain Tiger Task Force;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the financial resources to the extent of Rs. 11,000 crores identified in the Task Force Report to relocate village will be provided by Government over a period;

(d) whether Government propose to amend the criminal provision of the Wild Life Protection Act to combat poaching; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. Action has been taken for implementing the urgent actions recommended by the Tiger Task Force as given in the Statement enclosed (*See* below).

(c) Action has been taken for an assessment of villages requiring relocation from protected areas apart from evolving a relocation package with implications.

(d) and (e) The Tiger Task Force constituted as per the recommendations of the National Board for Wildlife has, inter-alia, suggested amendments to the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 on which needful action has been initiated.

Statement

Implementation of the report of Tiger Task Force due for reply on 23.12.2005.

Action has been taken on the following urgent recommendations of the Task Force which were accepted for implementation:

1. Request the Prime Minister to head the Steering Committee of Project Tiger for a period of 2-3 years.

2. The Project Tiger Directorate to be converted into a statutory authority under the Ministry of Environment & Forests. This will give it greater autonomy and ability to coordinate with State Governments.

3. The Wildlife Crime Bureau to be created immediately under the Ministry of Environment & Forests.

4. The next census (planned for November) of tigers and habitat to be done using the new methodology, suggested by Ministry of Environment & Forests and endorsed by the Tiger Task Force. Independent audit report also be to presented to Parliament in 6 months, which will rate state performance on different criteria.

5. The plan for relocation of villages from key tiger habitats to be finalized within one year, with its financial and logistical implications and completed with 2-3 years.

6. The plan for coexistence to be prepared by each tiger reserve within one year so that benefits of conservation can be shared with local communities.

7. The benefits of tourism to be shared with local communities using the recommendations of the Task Force.

Change of climates

†3421. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the climate of the country is changing now a days;

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto;

(c) whether it is also a fact that due to this change of climate, forests and lives of people and animals living in the forests are likely to be affected; and

(d) if so, the facts of the matter and the steps being taken by Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) As per information made available by the Indian Meteorological Department, the surface air temperature over the Indian subcontinent show a slightly warming trend by about 0.4 C during the past 100 years. This warming trend is however

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† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.